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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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L A T E N E W S

The Office of Supply in the Republic of Korea has invited bids to supply the Government Tobacco Monopoly with filter tip cigarette-making machines. The government has granted the use of \$182,000 of foreign exchange for the purchase of this machinery. Bidding will close on July 3, 1957.

* * *

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS UP IN MARCH

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in March 1957 totaled 32.4 million pounds, valued at \$21.8 million. This was 17 percent above the March exports a year ago, which totaled 27.8 million pounds.

Flue-cured and Maryland showed the most significant gains respectively 25 percent and 104 percent larger than those for March 1956. Exports of Burley, dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, Black Fat, cigar wrapper, and cigar binder were below those for March a year earlier.

Total exports of unmanufactured tobacco for the first 9 months of the 1956-57 fiscal year amounted to 400.8 million pounds; for the first 9 months of fiscal 1955-56, they amounted to 481.4 million.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, January-March 1956
and 1957, with percent change
(Export weight)

Type	March		:Percent :Change	January-March		:Percent :Change
	: 1956	: 1957		: 1956	: 1957	
	: 1,000 pounds		:Percent	: 1,000 pounds		:Percent
Flue-cured.....	20,463	25,535	: + 24.8	79,995	70,469	: - 11.9
Burley.....	2,248	1,378	: - 38.7	6,093	5,490	: - 9.9
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn. :	2,339	1,847	: - 21.0	8,111	5,379	: - 33.7
Virginia fire-cured 1/:	387	504	: + 30.2	1,675	1,439	: - 14.1
Maryland.....	687	1,398	: + 103.5	3,202	2,723	: - 15.0
Green River.....	8	70	: --	381	453	: + 18.9
One Sucker.....	19	99	: --	23	709	: --
Black Fat.....	563	549	: - 2.5	1,063	864	: - 18.7
Cigar wrapper.....	456	329	: - 27.9	1,094	747	: - 31.7
Cigar binder.....	225	202	: - 10.2	321	358	: + 11.5
Cigar filler.....	--	--	: --	70	29	: - 58.6
Other.....	365	521	: + 42.7	1,110	1,227	: + 10.5
Total.....	27,760	32,432	: + 16.8	103,138	89,887	: - 12.8
Declared value	:	:	:	:	:	:
(million dollars)...	17.3	21.8	: + 26.0	64.3	60.7	: - 5.6

1/ Includes sun-cured

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of tobacco products in March 1957 amounted to \$5.7 million--up 6 percent from March 1956. Exports of cigarettes, cigars, and cheroots were larger than a year ago. Exports of smoking tobacco in bulk, however, were considerably smaller than in March 1956. For the 3-month period, January-March 1957, cigarette exports were 14 percent larger than for the corresponding period in 1956 (See table following).

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, January-March 1956
and 1957, with percent change

Products	March		Percent Change	January-March		Percent Change		
	1956	1957		1956	1957			
Cigars and cheroots (1,000 pieces).....	675	857	+	27.0	2,046	1,925	-	5.9
Cigarettes (million pieces).....	1,250	1,326	+	6.1	3,356	3,835	+	14.3
Smoking tobacco in bulk.. (1,000 pounds).....	457	281	-	38.5	1,640	678	-	58.7
Declared value 1/ (million dollars).....	5.4	5.7	+	5.6	14.5	15.9	+	9.7

1/ Includes value of tobacco manufactures not separately shown:

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

PHILIPPINE TOBACCO EXPORTS UP

Philippine exports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1956 totaled 23.4 million pounds, compared with 15.9 million in 1955. The increase occurred in larger shipments to Spain, the United States, Belgium, French Africa, and the Netherlands. Exports to Spain and the United States were 2.7 and 2.6 million pounds larger than the 1955 levels of 9.8 and 3.5 million, respectively. Shipments of scrap, etc., principally to the United States, totaled 6.6 million pounds and were 11 percent greater than the 1935-39 annual average of 5.9 million.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: Philippine Republic, exports by country of destination, 1954-56

Country of destination	1954	1955	1956
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds
United States and Territories..	1,369	3,543	6,183
Belgium.....	875	874	1,387
French Africa.....	299	347	1,041
Netherlands.....	372	745	883
Spain.....	17,511	9,813	12,553
Other.....	1,538	608	1,368
Total.....	21,964	15,930	23,415

Sources: Bureau of the Census and Statistics for 1954-55 and the Central Bank of the Philippines for 1956.

JAPANESE USES MORE U. S. TOBACCO IN 1956

Japanese usings of United States tobacco increased from an estimated 5.2 million pounds in 1955 to about 7.0 million pounds in 1956. Increased sales of cigarettes containing United States tobacco and the larger percentage of U. S. leaf used in "Peace" and "Hikari" accounted for the increase. The Japanese Monopoly reduced the retail prices of "Peace" and "Fuji" in March 1956 in line with the increased emphasis on sales of the higher quality, more profitable brands.

Sales of cigarettes containing United States tobacco--"Peace", "Fuji", "Hikari", and "Pearl"--have been aided by an extensive, cooperative advertising program under Section 104(a) of Public Law 480. Under this program, representatives of the United States tobacco trade in cooperation with the Japanese Monopoly and the U. S. Department of Agriculture have actively promoted the sales of Japanese cigarettes containing United States tobacco.

IRELAND'S OUTPUT OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS LOWER IN 1956

Output of tobacco products in Ireland declined from 14.8 million pounds in 1955 to about 14.4 million in 1956. Domestic consumption dropped from 13.7 million pounds in 1955 to 13.2 million in 1956. Lower consumption was due mainly to an increase in import duty in May 1956, equivalent to U. S. \$1.11 per pound for unstemmed leaf. This increased the total duty to U. S. \$5.99 per pound. As a result, retail prices of the most popular brands of cigarettes rose the equivalent of 6 U. S. cents per package.

COLOMBIAN TOBACCO EXPORTS AT RECORD HIGH

Colombian exports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1956 totaled 11.5 million pounds--an all-time high, compared with 10.0 million in 1955. Most of the increase occurred in larger shipments to West Germany, Algeria, and Indochinese States. Exports to France and Belgium were slightly below the 1955 levels, while shipments to Tunisia were nil. Combined shipments to the French franc countries during the past 3 years averaged 3.8 million pounds, annually.

Leaf exports to West Germany, the principal market, rose from 5.8 million pounds in 1955 to 7.0 million in 1956 and consisted primarily of Cuban-type produced in the Bolivar Department. Germany, reportedly, paid the equivalent of 31.8 U. S. cents per pound for this type of leaf. About 80 percent of the leaf produced in Bolivar (Cuban and Crillo types) is for export and is reported to have very good combustibility due to the soil's high potash content.

TOBACCO PRICES INCREASE IN BRAZIL

Farm prices for leaf tobacco sold in Rio Grande do Sul advanced sharply in 1957. Prices in 1957 increased 10 to 40 percent over 1956 prices with the largest percentage increases in the upper grades.

The price of the top grade of flue-cured tobacco increased from the equivalent of 20.6 U. S. cents per pound in 1956 to about 28.9 U. S. cents in 1957. A lower grade increased from 6.4 U.S. cents per pound in 1956 to about 7.1 U. S. cents in 1957. Top grades of both native and Burley leaf increased about 40 percent over 1956 prices to about 14.8 and 18.1 U. S. cents per pound, respectively.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S LEAF TOBACCO EXPORTS UP

Leaf tobacco exports from the Dominican Republic during 1956 totaled about 30 million pounds, .8 million larger than for 1955. Most of the increase from 1955 occurred in larger shipments to Western Germany, Algeria, Austria, Spain, Morocco, French Africa, and Indochinese States, while exports to Belgium, France, Gibraltar, Uruguay, the Canary Islands, and Tunisia were below the 1955 levels. Madagascar, British Malaya, and Denmark were new export markets for Dominican leaf in 1955. The Belgian Congo and the Azores purchased small quantities of Dominican leaf for the first time in 1956.

The average export price of Dominican leaf rose from 16.9 U. S. cents per pound in 1955 to 17.2 U. S. cents per pound in 1956.

TOBACCO, LEAF: Dominican Republic, exports by country of destination,
1954-56

Country of destination	1954 1,000 pounds	1955 1,000 pounds	1956 1/ 1,000 pounds
West Germany.....	5,846	4,605	5,130
Algeria.....	2,853	2,696	3,358
Austria.....	----	349	796
Belgium.....	4,756	4,011	3,717
Spain.....	4,378	5,455	6,096
France.....	2,221	2,336	399
Netherlands.....	1,685	2,806	2,965
Gibraltar.....	1,491	1,994	1,426
Uruguay.....	1,092	343	123
Indochinese States.....	689	723	1,265
Canary Islands.....	480	524	357
United States.....	41	209	33
Tunisia.....	135	930	4
French Africa.....	---	478	1,314
Morocco.....	1,354	898	2,324
Others.....	166	498	349
Total.....	27,187	28,855	29,656

1/ Preliminary.

SWITZERLAND DENIES INCREASE IN PRODUCER MILK PRICES

Switzerland's Federal Council, designed to act on requests for price increases under the Statute of Agriculture, in late April denied a price increase to fluid milk producers. The price will remain at about \$4.15 per cwt. The government indicated, however, that the increase would be considered this fall, and that there is a possibility of an increase in the second half of the milk year.

The decision is, in part, result of the government's determination to restrain the cost of living. In 1956, the price increase for milk at the source, which carried through to the retail price, caused a rather sharp jump in the consumer price index.

NEW ZEALAND DAIRY RESERVE FUND HAS HEAVY LOSSES

Losses through April to the New Zealand Dairy Stabilization Fund in support of butter and cheese prices are estimated at \$14 million. The fund may decline another \$2.8 million by the end of June. It totaled \$78.4 million on August 1, 1956, at the beginning of the current season.

There are no minimum limitations to which the fund may fall, and because of the low prices prevailing in the United Kingdom market and the agreement between the New Zealand Government and industry that the stabilized price may be reduced by not more than 5 percent in a season, the outlook for the dairy industry is pessimistic.

The situation will probably be fully reviewed at the winter meeting of the Dairy Board. However, since the present agreement is just beginning to be implemented the government is not likely to seek a change now. It is also doubtful whether the dairy farmers want the agreement changed, as the guaranteed price can only drop to 95 percent of the preceding year's price.

LEBANON ANNOUNCES DRIED MILK CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTION

A customs duty exemption for unsweetened dry milk imported for use in biscuit manufacture was recently announced by the Government of Lebanon. The ruling, Decree No. 627, became effective March 4, 1957. Through this action the government hopes to aid the domestic baking industry.

Dry milk imported for chocolate manufacture has been admitted duty-free since 1952 and will continue in this status. However, final decision either to exempt these products or to apply the maximum rate (25 percent ad valorem) rests with the customs authorities.

CUBA EXTENDS HATCHING EGG IMPORT EXEMPTION

The Cuban Ministry of Finance, by Decree No. 889 of April 9, 1957, has extended the period of enforcement of Decree No. 181 of February 2, 1956, to June 30, 1957. This decree authorized that the importation of hatching eggs, properly selected and suitable for incubation, be exempt from payment of consular fees and other customs duties and taxes applied on imports, except under conditions and circumstances regulated by Presidential Decree No. 5122 of December 2, 1949 (gross sales tax).

NEW ZEALAND WOOL PRICES HIGHER

Crossbred wools met an excellent demand at the Wellington, New Zealand, auction on April 8, when a total of 30,300 bales was scheduled for sale. Bidding at the sale was highly competitive, with British and Continental buyers dominating.

The official range of prices at the Wellington sale, compared with prices received last year, follows:

Type	3-28-56	4-8-57
	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.
Fine crossbred 50's.....	61 - 65	79 - 81
Medium crossbred 48/50's.....	61 - 63	76 - 78
Crossbred 46/50's.....	61 - 63	74 - 77
Coarse crossbred 46/48's.....	62 - 63	74 - 76

U.S. HIDE AND SKIN EXPORTS SHOW INCREASE FOR JANUARY-MARCH

United States exports of cattle hides and calf and kip skins were up moderately in the first 3 months of 1957 as compared with the same period in 1956. During January-March 1957, exports of cattle hides were about 6 percent over those of 1956, and exports of calf and kip skins about 4 percent. The most significant increase over this period was in exports of sheep and lamb skins, which were up approximately 43 percent from 176,000 pieces in 1956 to 252,000 in 1957.

Increased production and more favorable prices were the principal reasons for the gains in trade.

HIDES AND SKINS: U.S. exports, average 1935-39,
annual 1955-56, January-March 1956-57

Country of destination	Average 1935-39	1955	1956	January-March		
				1956	1957	1957 Increase or decrease (-)
	<u>1,000 pieces</u>	<u>1,000 pieces</u>	<u>1,000 pieces</u>	<u>1,000 pieces</u>	<u>1,000 pieces</u>	<u>1,000 pieces</u>
Cattle hides:						
Japan.....	260	1,251	1,329	324	331	7
Canada.....	127	696	774	285	258	-27
Mexico.....	4	778	702	152	200	48
West Germany.....	3	717	436	78	123	45
Netherlands.....	24	783	285	96	210	114
United Kingdom.....	37	388	243	83	81	-2
Yugoslavia.....	1/	125	246	59	42	-17
Belgium.....	1	137	21	9	20	11
Others.....	77	977	904	288	195	-93
Total.....	533	5,852	4,940	1,374	1,460	86
Calf and kip:						
Japan.....	247	857	1,033	231	235	4
Canada.....	170	651	570	207	162	-45
West Germany.....	13	734	783	224	188	-36
Netherlands.....	25	480	209	69	99	30
United Kingdom.....	12	363	98	18	39	21
Belgium.....	10	76	47	13	10	-3
Italy.....	6	41	104	8	49	41
Others.....	72	377	262	25	44	19
Total.....	555	3,579	3,106	795	826	31
Sheep and lamb 2/:						
Canada.....	3/1,009	314	337	80	76	-4
United Kingdom.....	80	154	258	65	88	23
Mexico.....	3/11	215	84	11	3	-8
France.....	3/38	90	88	15	39	24
Belgium.....	11	7	43	0	4	4
Others.....	81	67	21	5	42	37
Total.....	1,230	847	831	176	252	76

1/ Less than 500. 2/ Includes goat and kid. 3/ For 1939.

PANAMA SUBSIDIZES CATTLE EXPORTS

The Government of Panama is encouraging cattle exports by a subsidy program. The Institute for Economic Development has established a fund for payments to exporting stockmen equal to the difference between the domestic and export price. The fund will be maintained by an assessment of \$1 per head on all cattle slaughtered for domestic use.

During each of the past 2 years, Panama has exported 1,500 to 2,000 cattle. Most of the exports were to the Canal Zone, but smaller numbers were sent to Curacao, Dutch West Indies, and Colombia. In March, 260 head were shipped to Curacao from Chiriqui.

U.S. TALLOW AND GREASE EXPORTS INCREASE IN JANUARY-MARCH 1957

Exports of inedible tallow and greases from the United States during January-March 1957 reached 410.5 million pounds, about 11 per cent above the 371.4 million pounds shipped during the corresponding period last year.

Foreign use of United States tallow has been gradually increasing mainly because of the high quality and relatively low price of the United States product. Also, the economic recovery in many world areas has increased demand at a time when export supplies from other countries have been limited. Increased trade with Europe and Asia accounted for most of the United States' overall gain in January-March.

Practically all major importers of United States tallow in Europe increased their purchases for the first quarter of 1957, with Poland, France, Spain, and the Netherlands showing the most substantial gains.

In this same 3-month period tallow exports to Asia totaled 82.0 million pounds, compared with 55.3 million pounds shipped in 1956. Japan, with imports of 65.7 million pounds, was by far the leading purchaser of United States tallow in this area.

Exports of United States tallow to all other important marketing areas were down somewhat in January-March; the most significant decline was in trade with South America. Tallow exports to this area dropped from 13.4 million pounds in the first quarter of 1956 to 8.3 million in the same period this year.

INEDIBLE TALLOW AND GREASES: U.S. exports, by country of destination,
average 1935-39, annual 1955-56, and January-March 1956-57

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	1955	1956 1/	January - March		
				1956 1/	1957 1/	Increase or decrease (-)
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
North America:						
Br. West Indies . . .	6	4,141	2,561	1,193	599	- 594
Canada	4,352	19,755	25,651	4,227	4,488	261
Cuba	1,076	28,924	38,927	9,851	9,346	- 505
Dominican Republic .	264	3,079	3,410	670	1,147	477
El Salvador	---	5,431	3,887	1,584	424	- 1,160
Guatemala	196	3,522	5,075	1,377	1,169	- 208
Mexico	266	52,405	57,961	14,614	14,692	78
Other	354	3,351	3,932	415	974	559
Total	6,514	120,608	141,404	33,931	32,839	- 1,092
South America:						
Chile	6	6,957	4,848	2,149	155	- 1,994
Colombia	82	19,621	8,485	3,837	1,159	- 2,678
Ecuador	2	7,628	9,571	2,324	2,944	620
Peru	38	9,521	10,696	3,591	2,605	- 986
Other	60	6,125	7,952	1,476	1,403	- 73
Total	188	49,852	41,552	13,377	8,266	- 5,111
Europe:						
Austria	2/	5,317	7,669	2,165	2,417	252
Belgium-Luxembourg .	500	68,863	71,582	12,843	14,287	1,444
France	70	16,725	3,849	1,043	6,527	5,484
Germany, Western 2/3/	98	109,629	139,518	28,282	29,456	1,174
Ireland	2	8,982	5,925	1,798	142	- 1,656
Italy	308	190,569	272,284	72,151	64,397	- 7,754
Netherlands	1,364	261,935	236,646	70,852	82,317	11,465
Norway	98	3,276	2,655	781	286	- 495
Poland	0	1,741	16,017	4,034	15,685	11,651
Spain	0	7,441	31,553	5,313	12,867	7,554
Switzerland	112	29,152	29,168	8,460	7,036	- 1,424
United Kingdom . . .	514	6,347	18,330	8,051	910	- 7,141
Yugoslavia	2	23,944	24,117	8,890	10,400	1,510
Other	230	8,927	23,163	5,906	4,672	- 1,234
Total	3,298	742,848	882,476	230,569	251,399	20,830
Asia:						
Japan	102	203,094	210,806	37,532	65,677	28,145
Korea	---	16,154	17,809	-	13	13
Philippines, Rep. of	50	12,074	13,649	5,045	4,211	- 834
Taiwan (Formosa) . .	---	23,609	26,873	5,874	3,158	- 2,716
Other	58	19,612	20,968	6,897	8,957	2,060
Total	210	274,543	290,105	55,348	82,016	26,668
Africa:						
Egypt	4	36,823	49,427	13,989	18,345	4,356
Fed. of Rhodesia & Nyasaland	---	6,665	5,956	689	2,039	1,350
Un. of South Africa .	14	56,562	68,424	19,891	14,746	- 5,145
Other	---	5,039	8,231	3,619	661	- 2,958
Total	18	105,089	132,038	38,188	35,791	- 2,397
Australia & Oceania .	96	-	-	-	-	-
World total	10,324	1,293,840	1,488,962	371,413	410,545	439,132

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Austria included with Germany. 3/ Prior to January 1952, reported as Germany. 4/ Includes a small quantity, the final destination of which has not been designated.

NEW SLAUGHTER PLANT FOR NICARAGUA

A new slaughter plant is expected to open this summer at Managua, Nicaragua. This \$700,000 plant will be the first establishment in Nicaragua where fresh meat can be produced, processed, and cured under modern sanitary conditions. Up to now, animals have been butchered in small plants or out-of-doors, for sale and consumption within a short period.

Nicaragua produces more beef than is locally consumed and has about 30,000 cattle available for export each year. Facilities for freezing and canning meat for export will be added to the new slaughter plant in the near future.

SONORA CATTLE INDUSTRY AFFECTED BY DROUGHT

Many cattle producers in Sonora, Northwestern Mexico, are being forced to market their animals to avoid drought losses. The drought is unusually severe in the Northwestern part of the state where cattlemen have had to resort to supplemental feeding. The unusually high marketings have increased the usual flow of animals into the United States. Sonora is an important source of feeder cattle for the Southwestern United States.

WEST GERMAN HOG NUMBERS REACH NEW HIGH

West German hog numbers, which dropped during 1956, rose to 13,746,300 in March 1957. This is the highest postwar number for this time of the year, when hog numbers are normally at their seasonal low. West German hog numbers have been rising rapidly since March 1946, when the level was less than 5 million. The prewar March average was 11 million.

Growing purchasing power of consumers, along with general economic prosperity in West Germany, have contributed to a rising demand for pork and pork products. Because of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in France last year, a West German embargo on imports of live hogs and fresh pork from France has been in effect since June 1956. This has encouraged West German hog producers to increase production, as France is normally an important source of live hog and pork imports.

From present indications, hog numbers should reach record levels in all quarters of the year. Slaughter in the last quarter should be relatively high. The large slaughter will probably continue well into 1958.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES SHOW INCREASE

Wool sales were held in Sydney and Adelaide during the week ending May 10, 1957, About 80,000 bales were offered at Sydney and 45,000 bales at Adelaide.

The sale in Sydney opened with strong competition from the United Kingdom, the Continent, and Japan. The demand for comeback and crossbred wools was particularly strong, and these types generally showed an increase of fully 5 percent when compared with the last Sydney pre-Easter sale.

The Adelaide market opened on a strong note, with values generally from 5 to 7.5 percent above the closing levels of the last Adelaide series in April. Strong quality merino and comeback and crossbred wools showed the greatest advance. The principal buyer was the United Kingdom, supported by the Continent, Japan, and local mills.

WOOL, RAW: Australia, average costs per pound on auction floors, clean basis, by quality classification, weeks ended

Type and grade	Week ended		
	5-11-56	5-3-57	5-10-57
	- - - U.S. dollars per pound - - -		
Combing wools:			
70's Good.....	1.42	1.70	1.73
Average.....	1.35	1.64	1.68
64's Good.....	1.26	1.61	1.63
Average.....	1.23	1.57	1.60
60's Good.....	1.12	1.51	1.54
Average.....	1.08	1.47	1.49
58's Good.....	.99	1.39	1.43
Average.....	.96	1.33	1.36
56's Good.....	.90	1.27	1.30
Average.....	.87	1.23	1.26
50's Good.....	.80	1.13	1.15
Average.....	.78	1.10	1.12
Carding wools:			
Merino.....	.85	.96	.97
Comeback.....	.77	.86	.88
Fine Crossbred.....	.72	.81	.83
Medium Crossbred.....	.69	.80	.82

Source: Wool Statistical Service, Australian Wool Bureau

ARGENTINE HOG SLAUGHTER
EXPECTED TO RISE

Hog slaughter for 1957 in Argentina is now estimated at about 2.6 million head, a rise of 10 percent over the estimated 1956 slaughter. Argentina has increased its effective support price of corn from about \$.50 to \$.63 per bushel. Informed sources believe that this will lower the corn-hog ratio to such an extent that many marginal hog producers will be forced to feed hogs to lighter weights and market breeding stock with a consequent rise in slaughter.

Exports of lard from Argentina increased from 10 to 22 million pounds from 1955 to 1956. Shipments to Peru, the United Kingdom, Chile, and Italy accounted for most of Argentina's foreign trade in lard.

INDIA AGREES TO BUY RICE
FROM NORTH VIETNAM

A trade contract was signed in New Delhi, India, on May 2 between the State Trading Corporation of India and a visiting official trade mission from North Vietnam under which India will buy 7,000 metric tons of rice from the North Vietnam 1956-57 crop. Shipment of the rice will begin about the end of May 1957.

North Vietnam has reportedly agreed to accept payment in Indian rupees and to utilize them for the purchase of Indian commodities which will include jute goods, cotton textiles, raw hemp, engineering goods, machines and hides and skins. This "barter" type arrangement has been particularly welcomed in Indian trade circles in view of the current serious position of India's foreign exchange resources.

ECUADOR HAS GOOD
RICE CROP

The 1957 rice crop of Ecuador now being harvested is expected to be the largest in several years. Production is forecast at 300 million pounds of rough rice, compared with 230 million pounds in the preceding year. Unusually high yields per acre are attributed to abundant rainfall.

Rice exports in 1957 are expected to be at least 50 million pounds of milled rice. In 1956, only 26 million pounds were expected. Rice exports so far this year have been committed to Colombia, Peru, and Costa Rica.

CANADA ANNOUNCES INITIAL PAYMENT FOR 1957 GRAIN CROP

Canada's Trade and Commerce Minister, C. D. Howe, announced on May 3 that initial payments on the 1957 wheat and barley crop would be the same as last year, while the payment for oats would be reduced. The prices announced, based upon delivery at the Lakehead, are: \$1.40 a bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat, 60 cents a bushel for No. 2 C.W. oats, and 96 cents a bushel for No. 3 C.W. 6-row barley.

Upon delivery of his grain to the local elevator, the farmer receives the initial payment less transportation to the Lakehead and other marketing costs. A final payment is made to the farmer after the Wheat Board completes marketings of the grain crop and total costs are deducted.

The initial payment on wheat has been the same since 1950. That year the initial payment on barley was 93 cents per bushel, but since then it has been 96 cents. The payment for oats was 65 cents per bushel during the years 1949-1956.

There was no explanation at the time of the announcement as to why the initial payment for oats was reduced 5 cents per bushel. Exports of oats have been at a low level during the past 2 years, and this lower initial payment may foreshadow a lower price which will make Canadian oats more attractive for export.

AUSTRALIA SEEDING LARGER WHEAT ACREAGE THAN IN 1956

Current prospects are that Australia's wheat acreage in 1957 will be considerably above the very small acreage seeded in 1956. Present forecasts of the wheat acreage, now being seeded, range from 9 to 10 million acres. Though well above the 1956 acreage of 7.8 million acres, this is sharply below the 1945-49 average of 12.7 million.

Despite the expected increase over the 1956 acreage, production prospects are not promising, as a result of abnormally dry weather throughout the summer and early autumn months over most of the wheat area. Some rain fell in April in New South Wales and neighboring areas and in Western Australia, giving some relief, but much more rain is needed throughout the country to assure average yields.

The dry conditions this season contrast with conditions in 1956 when the small wheat crop, now estimated at 135 million bushels, was attributed to excessive moisture, especially at seeding time. That crop was 60 million bushels below the good 1955 outturn and was the smallest harvest since 1946.

CANADA'S SPRING GRAIN SEEDING NEARS COMPLETION

Seeding of spring grain in Canada has been progressing excellently, and the season is as much as 2 weeks ahead of 1956, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. By May 15 a large part of the seeding had been completed over most of Alberta and in southern parts of Manitoba and western Saskatchewan. Early-seeded crops were through the ground in some of the regions in mid-May. Seeding has been backward in eastern Manitoba, northeastern Saskatchewan, and in the far north of Alberta.

Moisture conditions are reported generally satisfactory for germination, but rain would benefit some districts where reserves are on the low side. The bulk of Canada's grain is spring sown; less than 5 percent of the total wheat and 70 to 75 percent of the small rye crop are the only winter grains reported.

NEW ZEALAND EXPORT ESTIMATES FOR APPLES AND PEARS REVISED DOWNWARD

The New Zealand Apple and Pear Marketing Board's export goals for the current season will not be reached, according to trade reports. Revised estimates now place 1957 exports at 1,364,000 boxes of apples and 22,000 boxes of pears. Original goals were 1,400,000 boxes and 25,000 respectively.

Bulk of the planned exports has been loaded on ships, and final shipments are expected to clear New Zealand early in June. Apple and pear export estimates by country of destination for the 1957 season are:

<u>Apples:</u>	<u>Boxes</u>
United Kingdom	1,083,000
West Germany	140,000
France	75,000
Canada	26,000
Others	<u>40,000</u>
Total	1,364,000

Pears:

United Kingdom	21,000
Hawaii	<u>1,000</u>
Total	22,000

LARGE PORTUGUESE ALMOND CROP FORECAST

Early forecasts of the 1957 almond crop in Portugal point to a possible harvest of 5,800 short tons, shelled. A crop of this size would be nearly double the 3,000 tons harvested last year and 500 tons above the 5-year average (1950-54) of 5,300 tons.

February bloom was heavy, the subsequent "set" was good, and weather has since been favorable--marked by plentiful rain and freedom from frost. Portuguese trade sources expect crops of about 3,800 tons in the Algarve (southern region) and 2,000 tons in the upper Douro Valley.

NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPS NEW GENERAL PURPOSE WHEAT

Researchers in the New Zealand Government have developed a new wheat, Aotea, which combines very high yields, good baking quality, and excellent agronomic characteristics. This wheat does not lodge or shatter; it threshes well, and is resistant to leaf diseases.

Aotea will replace other varieties in the major wheat areas of New Zealand. Approximately 1,000 bushels, sufficient to sow about 650 acres, are now in the hands of farmers. It is estimated that at least 27,000 bushels will be harvested in 1958, enough to sow 18,000 acres, which will yield an estimated 810,000 bushels.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA NOW PRODUCING ALFALFA MEAL

The only commercial alfalfa industry of British East Africa is located in the Naivasha area, Rift Valley Province of Kenya. From 800 to 1,000 tons of alfalfa meal are exported to the United Kingdom each year, and an additional 4,000 tons are sold to local dairymen as baled alfalfa hay for use as cattle feed during the dry season. A guaranteed minimum of 22 percent protein is established.

Development of this industry is due to a system of irrigation and the installation of dryers. The crop is cut 12 times a year, with production ranging from 7 to 9 tons per acre. Use of dryers makes it possible to have meal available for shipment at all times. The grass prices at Naivasha are \$61.60 per ton for meal, and \$47.60 for baled hay.

U. S. EDIBLE OIL EXPORTS IN APRIL
DOWN FROM RECENT RECORD LEVEL

Exports of cottonseed and soybean oils from the United States in April were 101 million pounds, according to preliminary Census Bureau data. This was a drop of 87 million pounds from the all-time record set in March, but one-third more than exports in April 1956. Exports in October-April of 915 million pounds were nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the volume in the comparable period of the last marketing year.

While cottonseed oil exports in April continued to lag behind those of last year, soybean oil exports were more than twice those in April 1956.

April exports of soybeans are estimated at 6.5 million bushels on the basis of inspection returns, making a total of 60 million bushels since October 1, 9 million more than in October-April 1955-56.

COTTONSEED OIL, SOYBEAN OIL, OILCAKES AND MEALS: U. S. preliminary estimates of exports, April 1957 and October-April 1956-57, and actual exports, April 1956 and October-April 1955-56

Commodity	April		October-April	
	1956	1957 (Preliminary)	1955-56	1956-57 (Preliminary)
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Cottonseed oil, refined.....	9.5	.1	154.1	48.8
Cottonseed oil, refined and further processed.....	21.5	2.0	71.7	14.2
Cottonseed oil, crude.....	11.8	26.8	155.2	250.7
Total cottonseed oil.....	42.8	28.9	381.0	313.7
Soybean oil, refined.....	4.2	6.6	42.3	37.4
Soybean oil, refined and further processed.....	27.1	27.0	201.1	300.6
Soybean oil, crude.....	.3	38.4	20.6	263.7
Total soybean oil.....	31.6	72.0	264.0	601.7
Total cottonseed and soybean oil.....	74.4	100.9	645.0	915.4
	Thousand short tons	Thousand short tons	Thousand short tons	Thousand short tons
Cottonseed cake and meal.....	2.8	.3	143.4	26.0
Linseed cake and meal.....	4.8	.2	103.8	34.6
Soybean cake and meal.....	29.8	19.9	277.8	311.9
Total cake and meal.....	37.4	20.4	525.0	372.5

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

United States' exports of cottonseed and linseed cake and meal this April, totaling 500 tons, were negligible for the second consecutive month. With April shipments of soybean cake also down--to 20,000 tons--total exports of cake and meal since October are nearly one-third less than the record exports in the first 7 months of the 1955-56 marketing year.

U. K.'S IMPORTS OF OILCAKE AND MEAL
DOWN IN 1956 (A CORRECTION)

A mild winter led to the decrease in 1956 of imports of oilcake and meal into the United Kingdom; they totaled 919,225 short tons, a moderate decline from 1955. However, 1956 imports were substantially larger than in 1954 when only 716,992 tons were imported.

The following table is a correction of Table 4, page 20 of Foreign Crops and Markets, May 13, 1957, which contained incorrect data.

Table 4.--OILCAKE AND MEAL: United Kingdom imports,
annual 1954-56

Kind of oilcake and meal	1954	1956	1956
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Cottonseed.....	195,470	365,693	295,589
Peanut.....	190,347	245,181	234,051
Soybean.....	64,600	175,281	255,655
Sunflower seed.....	75,238	45,767	64,421
Linseed.....	126,040	79,761	41,421
Other.....	65,297	84,926	28,088
Total.....	716,992	996,609	919,225

Compiled from official sources.

CANADA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION
BELOW LAST YEAR

Canada's cotton consumption of 31,000 bales (500 pounds gross) in April 1957 was approximately the same as in the previous month, although 9 percent below the 34,000 bales utilized in April 1956.

Consumption during the 9-month period August-April 1956-57 was 292,000 bales, or 4 percent lower than consumption of 303,000 bales a year earlier.

EGYPT ANNOUNCES NEW COTTON POLICY FOR 1957-58 CROP

The Government of Egypt announced May 16, 1957, the following provisions which will be effective for the new 1957-58 cotton crop:

1. Futures trading in new crop months was begun May 18.
2. Guaranteed prices to growers for the 1957-58 crop will be the same as those established last year:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Tallaris per kantar</u>	<u>Cents per pound</u>
Karnak, G/FG	69	39.77
Menoufi, G/FG	64	36.89
Giza 30, Good	59	34.01
Menoufi, Good	55	31.70

3. A 10 percent discount will be allowed against shipments during September-October 1957, if payment is made either in dollars or Swiss francs, irrespective of destination.

4. Up to 25 percent of cotton exports to the United States can be sold under barter arrangement for imports of other commodities into Egypt.

5. The cotton export tax for the new crop will be increased after August 31 (exclusive of quai dues) as follows:

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Tallaris per kantar</u>		<u>Cents per pound</u>	
	<u>Old crop</u>	<u>New crop</u>	<u>Old crop</u>	<u>New crop</u>
Karnak/Menoufi	8	12	4.61	6.92
Other varieties	2	6	1.15	3.46

The present policy of price discounts on cotton exports from the 1956-57 crop (Foreign Crops and Markets, April 8, 1957) will be continued.

ARGENTINA'S COTTON CROP REDUCED BY BAD WEATHER

Argentina's 1956-57 cotton crop, now being harvested, is estimated at 500,000 bales (500 pounds gross), about 13 percent below last year's crop of 563,000 bales. Earlier estimates had been for a higher figure because of increased acreage, but yields were reduced by unfavorable weather and heavy insect infestation. Some acreage was abandoned. Cotton acreage for 1956-57 was estimated at 1,375,000 acres, the same as last year.

Argentina's long staple cotton in western irrigated areas, however, was reported to be in excellent condition. This crop was early, and not affected by leaf spot which developed later in the season.

Argentina consumes nearly all of the cotton it produces. Usually very little is available for export. Cotton consumption in 1955-56 was estimated at 525,000 bales, and a slight increase is expected in 1956-57. There were 70 mills in operation during 1955, compared with 65 in 1954; 930,000 spindles, compared with 886,000 in the earlier period; and 23,000 looms in both years.

Cotton imports, mostly from Peru, were approximately 11,000 bales per year in the last 2 seasons. Cotton exports were 2,000 bales in 1955-56, down sharply from 102,000 bales exported in 1954-55. The heavy exports in 1954-55 were made possible mainly by the reduction of accumulated stocks of low grade cotton. Exports in August-February 1956-57 have amounted to only 340 bales, all to Italy. Exports in all of 1955-56 were principally to the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Italy.

An export quota of 9,000 bales of Grade E cotton or below was permitted from the 1955-56 crop. No export quota from the 1956-57 crop has been announced.

Cotton stocks on February 28, 1957, the end of the Argentine crop year, were estimated at 192,000 bales. Minimum carryover needed is about 160,000 bales.

U.K'S COTTON IMPORTS HIGHEST IN 5 YEARS

Cotton imports into the United Kingdom amounting to 1,075,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-February 1956-57 were the highest in 5 years. They were 35 percent above imports of 797,000 bales in August-February 1955-56, and about 20 percent higher than in corresponding periods of the 2 preceding years.

A heavy shift to imports of United States cotton has occurred this year. These imports increased nearly 5 times, from 139,000 bales in August-February 1955-56 to 652,000 bales in the current period. The increase is attributed largely to the competitive price level of cotton available from stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Some decreases were shown in imports of cotton from other major supplying countries, although the increase in imports of United States cotton accounted for most of the overall increase. Imports from Peru and Turkey were higher than last year. Decreases in quantities from other sources were attributed to lower supplies available for export and to the temporary closing of the Suez Canal. No cotton has been imported from Egypt since September, but ample supplies of extra-long staple were available from the Sudan and shipments were maintained in spite of the Suez closure.

(Continued on following page.)

Quantities imported by the United Kingdom from principal sources during August-February 1956-57, with comparable 1955-56 figures in parentheses, were: Sudan 121,000 bales (130,000); Peru 50,000 (44,000); Mexico 35,000 (51,000); Nigeria 30,000 (72,000); Turkey 30,000 (none); Brazil 29,000 (77,000); U. S. S. 22,000 (52,000); India 7,000 (41,000); Pakistan, 7,000 (24,000); Syria 5,000 (28,000); and Egypt 278 (30,000).

Cotton consumption in the United Kingdom increased 3 percent during the first 6 months of the 1956-57 season. Consumption of 793,000 bales compared with 771,000 bales utilized in August-January 1955-56. A gradual increase in mill activity has occurred since the demand for yarn began to expand in early fall. The November consumption rate was the highest since November a year ago, and December and January levels were satisfactory. The backlog of orders in January compared favorably with the position a year ago.

Cotton stocks on January 31 were reported at 499,000 bales, the largest in about 18 months. Stocks on January 31, 1956, were 392,000 bales.

Cotton prices on the Liverpool market have been generally steady in recent months. Recent c.i.f. prices of United States and comparable foreign growths were:

COTTON: C.i.f. prices at Liverpool, United States and comparable foreign growths, May 9, 1957

Country	Quality	Price per pound		Comparable U.S. quality	Shipment period
		Foreign	U. S.		
		U.S. cents	U. S. cents		
Brazil.....	Type 5	30.24	26.53	SLM 31/32"	May-June
Pakistan.....	Punjab				
	289F SG	34.61	30.53	M 1"	May-June
Mexico.....	Matamoros				
	M 1-1/32":1/	32.28	31.41	M 1-1/32"	May-June
Nicaragua.....	M 1-1/32"	31.99	31.41	M 1-1/32"	May-June
U.S.S.R.	SM 1-1/32"	33.67	33.15	SM 1-1/32"	May-June

1/ August shipment.

A recent innovation by the Manchester Cotton Association was the opening on March 12, 1957, of a Market Room at the Royal Exchange Building, for the display of samples of cotton, "spot" and "afloat". The room features long counters with access to abundant natural light; up-to-date sets of raw cotton standards; notice boards listing cotton on offer; telephones for convenience of traders; and racks holding sample of "spot" cotton in Manchester and Liverpool warehouses. Color matched fluorescent lighting has been provided as auxiliary lighting when daylight is poor. The need for this type of facility has long been felt in the British cotton textile industry.

AUSTRALIA EXPECTS TO EXPORT ONLY 100 MILLION BUSHELS WHEAT THIS YEAR

Australia's exports of wheat and wheat flour during this year are forecast at only about 100 million bushels (grain equivalent), compared with over 130 million bushels exported last year. Even if only 100 million bushels are exported during the current season, Australia's stocks of wheat at the end of the season (December 1, 1957) will be only about half as large as a year earlier.

The small 1956-57 wheat crop is now estimated at 135 million bushels. On the assumption that farmers will retain about 15 million bushels for their own use, an estimated 120 million bushels of this wheat crop will reach commercial markets. This quantity plus the December 1, 1956 carry-over of 84 million bushels gives Australia a total of 204 million bushels wheat for all non-farm requirements of 1956-57. With domestic commercial market requirements estimated at 60 million bushels, export of 100 million bushels would leave Australia with a carry-over on December 1, 1957, of only about 44 million bushels.

In 1955-56, Australia's wheat production totaled about 195 million bushels, and in 1954-55 it was 169 million bushels. The 1950-54 average was 182 million bushels; that of 1945-49 was 178 million, and the prewar average was 170 million.

IRELAND'S IMPORTS OF OIL-BEARING MATERIALS AND OILS DOWN IN 1956

As Ireland produces no oilseeds, its entire supply of vegetable oil is imported in the form of oil-bearing materials, crude oils, and semi-refined oils. Ireland's imports of the principal vegetable oil-bearing materials and oils in 1955 and 1956 were as follows (in short tons):

	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Copra	8,102	6,548
Flaxseed	<u>1/</u>	1,425
Palm kernels	<u>1/</u>	1,472
Cottonseed oil	2,960	2,204
Palm oil	2,900	2,670
Linseed oil	2,427	1,587

1/ Not available.

Flaxseed imports came mainly from Canada, while imports of linseed oil came mostly from the United States. Communist China supplanted the United States as Ireland's main supplier of cottonseed oil in 1956.

BELGIUM'S OILSEED PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1956; OILSEED IMPORTS INCREASE

Production of flaxseed in Belgium in 1956 was down almost 7 percent from 1955--22,900 short tons (818,500 bushels) vs. 24,600 tons (887,900 bushels), due to a reduction in acreage. Acreage of rapeseed, however, increased, resulting in a 1956 rapeseed output of 2,000 tons, compared with 1,420 tons in 1955. No significant quantities of other oilseeds are produced in Belgium.

Imports into Belgium in 1956 showed a sizable shift from vegetable oil in the previous year to oil-bearing materials for domestic crushing. Imports of oil-bearing materials increased by over 50 percent, while vegetable oil imports declined by 32 percent.

Table 1.--OIL-BEARING MATERIALS: Belgium, imports and exports, 1955 and 1956

Oil-bearing materials	Imports		Exports	
	1955	1956 1/	1955	1956 1/
	Short tons			
Edible:				
Peanuts (shelled).....	8,240:	40,234:	32:	430
Soybeans 2/	33,890:	44,342:	---	---
Rapeseed.....	1,377:	3,706:	628:	559
Mustard seed.....	1,074:	839:	12:	93
Sunflower seed.....	1,215:	795:	47:	140
Poppy seed.....	196:	44:	---	1
Palm:				
Palm kernels.....	28,765:	23,941:	---	---
Copra.....	24,007:	36,294:	---	---
Industrial:				
Flaxseed (for seed) 3/	2,198:	3,040:	4,975:	3,516
(for crushing) 4/	37,342:	68,229:	1,446:	2,092
Castor beans.....	3,903:	3,980:	---	---
Other oilseeds.....	8,983:	11,828:	300:	122
Total.....	151,190:	237,272:	7,440:	6,953

1/ Preliminary. 2/ In bushels: 1955--1.130 million; 1956--1.478 million. 3/ In bushels: 1955 imports--73,300; 1956--101,300; 1955 exports--165,800; 1956 exports--117,200. 4/ In bushels: 1955 imports--1.244 million; 1956 imports--2.274 million; 1955 exports--48,900; 1956 exports--69,733.

Compiled from official sources.

Exports of oilseeds consist mainly of flaxseed for planting. Edible oil exports were down considerably in 1956, as cottonseed oil exports dropped over 95 percent from 1955. Industrial oil exports, however, were up sharply, as linseed oil exports were over 4 times as great in 1956 as in 1955.

Table 2.-- VEGETABLE OILS: Belgium, imports and exports, 1955 and 1956

Oils <u>1/</u>	Imports		Exports	
	1955	1956 <u>2/</u>	1955	1956 <u>2/</u>
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Edible:				
Soybean.....	948	142	1,579	4,911
Peanut.....	39,580	29,524	7,933	14,119
Cottonseed.....	30,485	3,823	30,658	839
Rapeseed.....	1,588	777	902	1,576
Olive.....	343	282	---	---
Palm:				
Palm.....	48,216	46,195	8,631	7,778
Palm kernel.....	5,494	3,295	3,595	639
Coconut.....	5,304	6,110	863	4,472
Industrial:				
Linseed.....	2,198	151	4,578	19,409
Castor.....	767	234	1,660	1,408
Tung.....	516	552	---	---
Other.....	1,402	2,532	745	222
Total.....	136,846	93,617	61,144	55,373

1/ Includes both raw and refined oils. 2/ Preliminary.

Compiled from official sources.

Oilcake and meal imports into Belgium in 1956 were 162,900 tons, down considerably from the 201,600 tons imported the previous year. Cottonseed and soybean oilcake and meal make up the bulk of these imports--about 47,000 tons of each were imported in 1956. With oilcake and meal exports in 1956 almost 30 percent larger than in 1955, net oilcake and meal imports of 104,800 tons were down more than one-third.

Total oilseed stocks as of December 31, 1956, were 9 percent above a year earlier, chiefly because of quadrupled stocks of soybeans. Crude vegetable oil stocks, on the other hand, were one-third smaller than the closing date of 1955. Only palm oil and palm kernel oil stocks were larger. Oilcake stocks as of last December 31 totaled about 18,500 tons, 36 percent more than the year before.

The Suez crisis had a great impact on the fats and oils market in Belgium. In the latter part of 1956, scare-buying and hoarding bid up prices. Currently quoted prices are still higher than a year ago, as dealers are unwilling to sell their high-priced stocks at a loss. Neither will they purchase new stocks until these old stocks are gone. Oil stocks--including pipeline supplies--are very low, and oil is being produced only for immediate consumption requirements.

MEXICAN ORANGE EXPORTS
INCREASED SHARPLY

Exports of Mexican oranges to all countries in February 1957 amounted to 121,694 boxes. During January-February 1957 exports totaled 286,567 boxes compared to 65,351 boxes for the first 2 months of 1956.

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